shore investigations for locating oil and gas reserves;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) There is no such proposal with this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Studies of deltaic sediments to locate hydrocarbons in the ancient sedimentary rocks are carried out by the K. D. Malaviya Institute of Petroleum Exploration along with other studies.

Order placed by ONGC to M/s. P. J. Pipes & Vessels

2943. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on February 8, 1993, ONGC have placed an order No. DZ 8 DB 0228 on M/s. P. J. Pipes & Vessels (P) Limited for Rs. 6 crores;

(b) if so, what are the details of the order;

(c) what is the quantity and value of the order, when it was signed by the firm and by which date, it is likely to be fully completed;

(d) what are the details of pending ONGC orders yet to be completed by the firm as on 30th June, 1993;

(e) whether Government have considered the previous track record of the firm before placing a fresh order; and

(f) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) ONGC had placed an order on M/s. P. J. Pipes & Vessels Ltd. on 8-2-93 for supply for 83,700 mtrs. of 5½" casing pipes at a value of about Rs. 6 crores. The delivery is scheduled to be completed by 20-12-93.

(d) As on 30-6-93 ten orders for supply of casing pipes were pending for execution by this firm. In addition part supplies against the order for supply of line pipes, risers and bends for SHG Process Complex for which an order was placed on a Consortium of M/s. P. J. Pipes & Vessels Ltd. and SAW Pipes Ltd. was also pending.

(e) and (f) ONGC had considered the past performance of the firm before fresh order was placed on them on 8-2-93.

Poor Response to Oil Exploration

2944. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Financial Express dated 30-7-93 captioned 'Oil expectation bids evoke poor response' in the fifth round of bidding which was far below the expectations as compared to the Fourth Round of bidding in the international market;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that major impediments in getting foreign participation was the inadequate data availability/non-professional and non-business like attitude of the Government; and

(d) if so, what remedial measures Government propose to take to rectify the present instable *situation/evoke positive response from* MNCs in future in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 15 bids have been received for 10 blocks under the Fifth Round of bidding. This is a satisfactory response considering the current climate for investment in exploration activities in the international market.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Running Vehicles on LPG

2945. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether scooters, cars and buses can be successfully run on LPG;

(b) if so, whether Government have also examined any such proposal, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to grant permission to such proposals on mass scale; and